

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMCONSUL STUTTGART
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USAREUR HEIDELBERG
USAFE RAMSTEIN
USCINCEUR STUTTGART

UNCLAS DUSSELDORF 1618

MILITARY ADDEES FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, GW, PL
SUBJECT: STATUS REPORT ON MAJDANEK TRIAL

REF: 76 DUSSELDORF A-133

1. THE MAJDANEK TRIAL, IN WHICH 14 DEFENDANTS ARE ACCUSED OF
HAVING KILLED A QUARTER OF A MILLION INMATES OF THE MAJDANEK/
LUBLIN (POLAND) CONCENTRATION CAMP, IS STILL DRAGGING ON AT
THE DUESSELDORF DISTRICT COURT.

2. AFTER 200 DAYS OF TRIAL, THE COURT, THE PROSECUTING
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ATTORNEY AND A DEFENSE LAWYER REPRESENTING EACH DEFENDANT
TRAVELLED TO POLAND. FROM OCTOBER 4 TO 12 THEY HEARD
WITNESSES WHO COULD NOT TESTIFY IN DUESSELDORF
BECAUSE OF ILL HEALTH, OR WHO FELT PSYCHOLOGICALLY
UNABLE TO TRAVEL TO A FOREIGN COUNTRY (GERMANY) SOME OF
WHOSE CITIZENS HAD IN THE PAST INFLICTED SO MUCH SUFFERING
UPON THEM.

3. CONDUCTING THIS ALREADY PROTRACTED TRIAL, PROBABLY THE LONGEST IN DUESSELDORF COURT HISTORY, IS COMPLICATED BY RULES WHICH HOLD THAT IT MAY NOT BE SUSPENDED FOR MORE THAN TEN DAYS AT A TIME, EXCEPT IN SERIOUS EMERGENCY SITUATIONS. THUS THE COURT HAD TO RETURN PROMPTLY FROM POLAND TO DUESSELDORF FOR ANOTHER DAY OF TRIAL, TAKEN UP MOSTLY BY READINGS FROM FILES AND RECORDS.

4. FROM OCTOBER 16 TO 22 THE COURT WILL TRAVEL TO GDANSK AND TWO FUTURE TRIPS TO WARSAW ARE PLANNED.

5. PUBLIC INTEREST IN THE TRIAL IS PRACTICALLY NON-EXISTENT THOUGH AN EARLY OCTOBER PROTEST BY A GROUP OF YOUNG ISRAELIES (DISTRESSED AT THE DURATION OF THE PROCEEDINGS) AROUSED SOME MILD LOCAL ATTENTION.

6. COMMENTS: THE END OF THE TRIAL IS NOT YET DISCERNIBLE. MORE WITNESSES ARE YET TO BE HEARD AND AFTER 35 YEARS, THE MEMORY OF SOME HAS FADED AND THEY FIND IT DIFFICULT TO IDENTIFY DEFENDANTS. IN ONE CASE, A WITNESS VEHEMENTLY IDENTIFIED ONE OF THE DEFENDANTS AS THE CAMP DOCTOR, A MAN WHO DIED SEVERAL YEARS AGO. FURTHERMORE, WITH THE PASSAGE OF TIME, SOME OF THE DEFENDANTS MAY NOT EVEN LIVE TO SEE THE END OF THEIR TRIAL. BLIGH
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